

CONFIRMATION

Amendments to the Drawings:

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated December 1, 2005. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

The enclosed amendments address the objection related to the drawings. Firstly, the specification has been amended to remove references to non-existent Figure 17C. The relevant parts of the description now refer to Figure 17B instead.

Secondly, Figure 43 has been amended to identify the layers that make up the fluid distribution stack 500.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Claims 1 to 5

Claims 1 to 5 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook. The Applicant disagrees.

The '908 patent describes the present Assignee's modular pagewidth printhead. Each module 12 has a single printhead chip 18. The modules can be individually removed and replaced so that the entire pagewidth printhead is not scrapped because of nozzle failure in one chip. Furthermore, '908 does not describe the print engine controller that drives the printhead IC's. Only the data connector 66 is discussed. The PEC is not part of the printhead assembly 10 taught by '908.

In contrast, the present printhead assembly has removable modules 30 with two or more chips 50 (more correctly called 'printhead integrated circuits') each. The assembly also has drive electronics with at least one controller for driving at least one of the printhead IC's. As described at page 15, lines 25 to 37, the drive electronics can support several controllers, and this has a direct bearing on the operating speed of the printhead IC's. In the embodiment described, one PEC drives four printhead IC's to achieve the desired print speed. However, this ratio is relatively easy to alter so the printhead assembly can be easily made suitable for a wide range of printing applications. Furthermore, this modular approach to the control circuitry makes it easy to identify and replace defective electronics.

Accordingly, '908 does not teach fundamental elements of the claimed invention. The cited assembly does not have modules with two or more printhead IC's and removable drive electronics that will support one or more PEC's.

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In light of the above, the cited reference fails to anticipate the invention defined by any of claims 1 to 5.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



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